

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT JESSICA HILL TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Lieutenant Jessica Hill, who perished on August 17th in the line of duty for our country.

Lt. Hill was proud to serve in the United States Coast Guard, and she earned the respect and admiration of many. She joined the Coast Guard in October, 2001 after earning a Master's Degree, and was stationed at MSO San Francisco where she decided to become a Coast Guard Dive Officer.

After successfully completing dive school, Lt. Hill was assigned to the Cutter *Healy*, one of the Coast Guard's three polar ice cutters, as a marine science and dive officer. With her positive attitude, easy laugh and constant smile, she also served as Morale Officer for the crew of that vessel.

Lieutenant Jessica Hill's ambition, training and passion served to inspire her entire unit, her shipmates, her family and many outside the Coast Guard. She has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and was regarded as a good Coastie, a woman of honor and a patriot.

We should all remember Jessica's life, courage and ultimate sacrifice in service for our Nation.

A native of St. Augustine, Jessica was a loving daughter to Mr. William Hill and Mrs. Dawn Zimmerman, and sister to Mrs. Adrienne Gullet. To all of Jessica's family, we know she will be dearly missed and we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Lieutenant Jessica Hill's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing her service in our Nation's Coast Guard and remembering both her life and her dedication to the United States of America.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF MACK BALL, SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mack Ball, Sr., who passed away August 8, 2006, in Eudora, Arkansas at the age of 75.

Mack Ball, Sr. was dedicated to improving his home community of Eudora, Arkansas. He served the community as Mayor for 12 years and was the presiding Chicot County Judge. Mack Ball, Sr. was also a committed member of the Eudora Chamber of Commerce. He took a particular interest in improving public education opportunities in Eudora and served on Eudora Public School Board. In addition he was a past national board member of the Beefmaster Breeders Universal.

Mack Ball, Sr. was a man devoted to his faith and was a member of the Eudora Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and as a Sunday school teacher.

My deepest condolences go to his wife, Leila Ball; his son Mack Ball, Jr.; his daughter Sally Tisdale and husband Stephen; his daughter Kathryn Phillips and her husband Doug; his brother Fred Felts, Jr.; his five grandchildren Mary Kathryn Gilfoil, Allan Phillips, David Phillips, Meg Phillips, and Elizabeth Cooper; and his two great grandchildren. Mack Ball, Sr. will be greatly missed in Chicot County and throughout the state of Arkansas.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. PETER YELORDA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Peter Yelorda, a person who has spent nearly 35 years as a leader in the corporate and public sector, and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Yelorda is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri.

Peter holds a Bachelor of Science in Science from Eastern Michigan University, and a Masters in Education from the University of Michigan specializing in Public Policy, Community and National Planning and Development. He is the Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City and has served in that capacity for nine years. In his role as a senior executive at his company, Peter is one of the highest ranking African-American executives in the Greater Kansas City Area. Prior to joining Blue Cross Blue Shield, he was Assistant City Manager of the City of Kansas City, Missouri while I was Mayor.

Civically, Peter serves on nine boards in the Greater Kansas City Area, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Board of Trustees, Urban League, and others. He serves as the Chairperson for the Full Employment Council, Chairman of the TIF Commission and Co-Chair of the Downtown Economic Stimulus Authority. In addition, he serves as the Chair of the Jazz District Redevelopment Corporation, the not-for-profit entity organized to revitalize the Historic 18th and Vine Jazz District. Under Peter's leadership, senior housing, a restaurant, and young adult housing were born. Mr. Yelorda is respected by business and community activists alike. Through these activities, Peter spends a considerable amount of time in service to the community each month. In all of his activities, he demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. Regardless of his leadership role, he always conducts himself with dedication, poise, and thoughtfulness, being mindful of all concerns.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Peter Yelorda at the Missouri Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WM. LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Peter and his endless commitment to serving the residents of the State of Missouri. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large. May his success serve as a stepping stone for many other African-Americans eager to be just as successful in their endeavors. While it is but a small acknowledgement for all of the work he has done, it is a heartfelt gesture, taking strength from the myriad lives he has touched in our hometown.

TRIBUTE TO UNION BENEFICA MEXICANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Union Benefica Mexicana (U.B.M.) on its many accomplishments throughout its 50 years of service to the people of Northwest Indiana and Mexico. This exceptional milestone will be highlighted at the annual Mexican Day Parade to be held on Sunday, September 10, 2006, in East Chicago, Indiana.

The U.B.M., officially founded in November 1956, was the result of a merger between three established organizations: the Cuatemoc Association, the Benito Juárez Association, and the Union of Latin Steel Workers. Since its inception, the U.B.M. has always taken pride in being a pillar of the Mexican Community. They have always made it a priority to remember and celebrate Mexico's independence, through the organization of parades and festivities. At the same time, they have focused on improving the lives of the youth, speaking out against discrimination, and assisting those in need, both here in Northwest Indiana and throughout Mexico.

Throughout its history, the U.B.M. has been instrumental in improving the quality of life in the Mexican community. The efforts of the U.B.M. have been felt by every generation, but nowhere has the selfless commitment of its members been demonstrated more than to the youth of Northwest Indiana and Mexico. Locally, the U.B.M. has a strong tradition of sponsoring youth activities, such as Little League baseball teams, soccer teams, boxing teams, and folkloric dance groups, as well as organizing special events, such as Christmas and Halloween parties and the annual Fiesta De Los Niños celebration.

In addition, the U.B.M.'s commitment to improving educational opportunities for the youth of the community is evidenced by their sponsorship of storytelling sessions by renowned authors, their participation in public library reading programs, and training seminars focused on public speaking and artistic performance. The U.B.M.'s dedication to the youth, specifically towards young women in the community, is further demonstrated by an annual program which, with the support of local elected officials, awards scholarships to three deserving young women each year.

Outside of the United States, the U.B.M.'s commitment to the people of Mexico is a shining example of the dedication, generosity, and

compassion found in the people of Northwest Indiana. The U.B.M.'s efforts in Mexico, throughout the years, have included relief for victims of natural disasters in Mexico City, Acapulco, Oaxaca, and Jalisco, to name a few. The U.B.M. has also conducted fund-raising efforts that have led to the building of churches in El Llano, Michoacan, and Aguas Caliente, as well as the purchase of an ambulance in Nuevo Leon. In addition, to assist Mexican families during the most difficult of times, the U.B.M. has demonstrated its benevolence by providing financial assistance to families in order to assist with the transporting of deceased relatives back to Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Union Benefica Mexicana, its members, and its President, Mr. Tony Barreda, on the organization's 50th anniversary. Their many accomplishments, their tireless efforts to improve the community, and their service to the people of Northwest Indiana and Mexico will forever be remembered.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN K.
HALL

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today on behalf of my colleagues Rep. JIM COSTA, Rep. DEVIN NUNES, Rep. RICHARD POMBO and Rep. GEORGE RADANOVICH to honor Stephen K. Hall, the Executive Director of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) for his outstanding contributions to California agriculture and the California water community.

The recognition that my colleagues and I are offering today is well deserved and long overdue. Throughout his career, Steve has remained a champion for California agriculture and for the protection and delivery of safe and clean water. Soon after graduating from California State University, Fresno in the early 1970's, Steve began his career as General Manager of the Tulare Lake Drainage District. In the years following, Steve founded the Land Preservation Association, an organization created to help develop and implement irrigation and drainage policy in California, and the California Farm Water Coalition, a pioneer collaboration of agricultural water users and water agencies. In 1992 Steve became the Executive Director of ACWA, and in the years since has helped shape the laws and policies that affect California's cities, farms and businesses. Under Steve's guidance and leadership, the ACWA has been a leader in California water issues. Devoted to promoting the development, management and reasonable beneficial use of water in an environmentally balanced manner, Steve has been involved in many major statewide water issues affecting California's local water agencies. He was a lead negotiator in the three-way negotiations between agricultural, urban and environmental water representatives that led to the creation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and the passage of Propositions 204 and 13.

Steve Hall's expertise in California's water issues and water policy has been recognized

and utilized by many as he has served in numerous appointed and advisory capacities to Governors Deukmejian, Wilson and Davis. Currently, Steve serves on the Boards of Directors for the California Water Institute and the California Infrastructure Coalition, as a member of the UC Davis Land Air and Water Advisory Committee and the California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, and is the co-chair of the Water Supply Sub-Committee for the California Bay-Delta Water Authority.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Steve Hall's 55th birthday, it is with the utmost respect and appreciation that my colleague's and I acknowledge his enormous and lasting contributions to the future of California and America in his continued commitment to sustaining our most precious resource, water.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER
GENERAL ROBERT TAYLOR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Brigadier General Robert Taylor as he retires after nearly 40 years of service with the United States Army and the Michigan Army National Guard. I thank General Taylor on behalf of those individuals who have benefitted from his time, contributions, and leadership abilities.

Robert Taylor began his career in the Michigan Army National Guard in 1964, where he served 3 years as a Military Police enlisted soldier. Soon after, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Military Police Corps in June of 1969. He has held command and staff assignments in the 146th Military Police Battalion, 1st Battalion 119th Field Artillery 38th Infantry Division, 72nd Rear Area Operations Center, and Commander, Recruiting Command, Michigan Army National Guard. During his over 40 years of service, he has been promoted to several, senior staff assignments. Some of these prestigious assignments included positions as Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Chief of Staff, Michigan National Guard, and in October of 1993, he was promoted to General Officer as the Assistant Adjutant General, Army. General Taylor held the position of Commanding General, 46th Military Police Command for the Michigan National Guard from June 1, 2004 until June 29, 2006, at which time he reverted to sole duty as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Army. In this assignment, Taylor was responsible for the wartime readiness of over 8,300 soldiers of the Michigan Army National Guard. Brigadier General Taylor's dedication to upholding the principles of the United States Army, and his continued work on behalf of the people in his community, is a testament to his strength of character.

General Taylor's years of service in the Army and his dedicated work on behalf of his country are honorable. His decorated medals include the Federal Legion of Merit, the Federal Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the State of Michigan Distinguished Service Medal, and the State of Michigan Legion of Merit Medal. In addition, Taylor has been awarded the Department of the Army Staff Identification Badge and cur-

rently serves as the Chairman of the Board, National Guard Association of the United States. General Taylor's academic background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Management from Spring Arbor University. His military education includes the Military Police Office Basic Course, the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Career Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Senior Reserve Component course at the Army War College.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring General Robert Taylor's exceptional service to America. May he know that his Nation is greatly appreciative for his tireless work.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE OATES
ANGULO

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to Jeanne Oates Angulo, President of the Capital Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. After twelve years of outstanding service to this organization, Jeanne will be retiring at the end of the year.

Jeanne was tapped to serve as president in 1994 after a successful career in television and radio, including a stint as General Manager of WPGC AM/FM in Washington, D.C. During this time, she was honored with the Advertising Club of Washington's Silver Medal Award, and was recognized as a Woman of the Year by Washington Woman magazine.

Her tenure at the MS Society has been equally distinguished. Jeanne has presided over an explosion in contributions to the Capital Chapter from \$2 million to more than \$5 million annually. She has overseen such fund-raising staples as the MS Walk, the MS Bike Tour, and the Women Against MS Annual Luncheon.

It has been my pleasure to work with Jeanne on the annual MS Ambassadors Ball, a salute to members of the diplomatic corps for their many contributions to humanitarian efforts. My wife, Pat, has co-chaired this event on two occasions, and joins me in praising Jeanne for her determination in soliciting in-kind donations to the Ball to keep overhead expenses low. Jeanne's enthusiasm and drive in this area has ensured that more funds are spent on the Society's mission: ending the devastating effects of MS, supporting MS research, and providing for MS advocacy efforts.

Jeanne has also dedicated her time to service on the boards of many community organizations, including the March of Dimes, the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club, the USO, the Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts, and the Women of Washington. Her tireless devotion to volunteerism is an outstanding model for others, and has been a tremendous asset to her as she works to get more people involved in charitable efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the entire Board of Directors of the National MS Society, everyone at the Capital Chapter, and all whose lives she has touched join me in thanking Jeanne for her continued efforts to help find a cure for MS. We wish Jeanne and her husband, Al, the very best as they move on to a new chapter in their lives.